CLAIMS

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- 1. A post-gastrically available delayed release oral (DRO) or rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prophylaxis of IBD, said composition comprising a polysaccharide selected from xanthan gum and HPMC as a therapeutically active agent in an amount effective to treat inflammatory bowel disease, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle.
- 2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum.
- 3. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC
- 4. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the polysaccharide is present as the sole therapeutically active ingredient.
- 5. A DRO composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.
- 6. A DRO composition as claimed in Claim 5 which is an enteric coated dosage form adapted to release its contents within the region of the jejunum to the colon.
 - 7. A rectally administrable composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4.
 - 8. A rectally administrable composition as claimed in Claim 7 which is a liquid enema or foam enema.
 - 9. A liquid enema as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum in a concentration of 0.4 to 2 % w/w.

- 422 Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 2 MAR 2000 A foam enema at claimed in Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum in a concentration of 1.4 to 2.5 w/w.
- A liquid enema as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the 11. polysaccharide is HPMC in a concentration of 1 to 20 % w/w.
 - A foam enema as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC in a concentration of 2.5 to 25 % w/w.
 - 13. A rectally administrable composition as claimed in Claim 7 or Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum in an amount of 400 to 2000 mg per unit dose.
 - A rectally administrable composition as claimed in Claim 7 or Claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC in an amount of 1 to 20 g per unit dose.
- 15. A DRO composition as claimed in Claim 5 or Claim 6, 20 wherein the unit dose of the polysacharide is 400 to 2000 mg.
- 16 The use of a polysaccharide selected from xanthan gum and HPMC as a therapeudically active agent in the 25 manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of IBD.
- A use as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the polysaccharide is the sole therapeutically active agent in 30 the medicament.
 - A use as claimed in Claim 16 or Claim 17 wherein the disease state is pouchitis.
 - A use as claimed in Claim 16 or Claim 17 wherein the disease state is left-sided ulceradive colitis.

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- 20. A use as claimed in Claim 16 or Claim 17 wherein the disease state is Crohn's Disease.
- 21. A use as claimed in any one of Claims 16 to 20, wherein the medicament is a composition as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 15.

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22. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of IBD comprising contacting the diseased mucosa of the gastro-intestinal tract with a therapeutic amount of a polysaccharide selected from xanthan gum and HPMC.

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